




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

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HOSPITAL FOUNDATIONS BILL

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (3.11 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Hospital Foundations Bill, which repeals and replaces the Hospitals Foundations Act 1982. Queensland's hospital foundations do important work in communities supporting our public health system. This new bill provides a streamlined framework which removes unnecessary red tape and makes legislation easier to understand and apply so that foundations can continue to focus on their core business.

In supporting this bill, I would like to give an overview of the fantastic work the Ipswich Hospital Foundation performs in supporting our West Moreton Hospital and Health Service in Ipswich. The Ipswich Hospital Foundation does not see itself merely as a fundraising body. It plays an important role in the Ipswich community to promote and deliver initiatives that support patient care, and it delivers a number of programs that encourage people to adopt a healthier lifestyle.

Ipswich Hospital Foundation is committed to supporting the public health system in a wide range of areas—notably, children's health, education and nutrition, patient support, healthy events, medical research, Health staff development and digital health services. It has an army of over 170 volunteers who dedicate almost 20,000 hours of volunteer time each year.

Some of the achievements the foundation is most proud of is their work supporting children's health and caring for child patients in Ipswich Hospital. Last year, for example, the Ipswich Hospital Foundation installed a decorative wall in the Sunshine Circle children's ward at Ipswich Hospital so that children would feel less threatened by their hospital stay. That was through some state government funding too. The foundation also provides over 5,000 activity packs annually to children staying in the Sunshine Circle ward to help them feel more comfortable and relaxed during their stay.

The foundation has put funding into redeveloping the Sunshine Circle ward's playground and has installed new play equipment and built a new covered play area for kids. The foundation also encourages young children to adopt healthy eating habits through the Kids Kitchen Project. Delivered in local primary schools and partnering with TAFE Queensland, the Kids Kitchen Project teaches children about cooking and healthy eating under the supervision of a trained nutritionist.

Another fantastic initiative started by the Ipswich Hospital Foundation is the wig library, which provides low-cost wigs to more than 120 women and children undergoing intensive cancer treatment. The wig library is an invaluable service for cancer sufferers in Ipswich, helping to boost their self-esteem and confidence.

The foundation's goal is for Ipswich to become the healthiest community in Australia. To this end, they play a crucial role in our community to promote healthy, active lifestyles which help prevent chronic conditions like cardiovascular disease and diabetes. The foundation's Fit4Life program is helping Ipswich meet this goal with low-cost fitness sessions for the community. All proceeds raised go towards financially supporting the West Moreton Hospital and Health Service. The Fit4Life program averages over 500 participants per week in programs such as running, walking, yoga and aqua aerobics.

The foundation supports the annual Park2Park community fitness event in Ipswich. It is a hugely popular event run in July. Last year it raised over \$10,000 and all of that money went to the West Moreton Hospital and Health Service. Other great programs and initiatives the Ipswich Hospital Foundation have delivered include providing brand-new iPad devices in Ipswich Hospital's ICU to enhance communication between patients and staff; partnering with West Moreton Health and the University of Southern Queensland to deliver the All Things Healthy Expo; proudly supporting local Indigenous health by being the major sponsor of the Kambu Warriors sports day each year; and partnering with Mount Crosby Lions Club to hold the Ipswich 100 bicycle event that raised \$74,000 for local charities and \$13,000 for Ipswich Hospital Foundation's investment in sun protection, distributing sunscreen sachets to schools, public events, swimming pools and parks.

There are many other programs which the Ipswich Hospital Foundation has delivered over the years. I want to take the opportunity to thank the foundation for their work supporting Ipswich health and the West Moreton Hospital and Health Service. Hearing some of the things that they have done gives us an indication of how pivotal these foundations are not just to our community but also to our health service.

Queensland's world-class public health system is supported by the invaluable work that hospital foundations all over the state provide. Queensland's hospital foundations legislation has not changed substantially in over 30 years. This bill removes unnecessary red tape, providing an appropriate balance between business autonomy and ministerial oversight. It removes inflexible measures such as requiring board members to have particular qualifications in order to reflect the diversity of work that foundation board members now perform.

In 2017 foundations collectively raised \$74 million, which went back into our health system to fund life-saving research, sponsor further education and training of health practitioners, deliver specialised medical equipment and provide support services to patients and carers. At a time when Canberra still owes Queensland \$1.1 billion for health services that we delivered as far back as 2014, including \$39 million allocated for West Moreton Hospital and Health Service, we need to support our hospital foundations now more than ever.